

Claims

[c0001] 1. A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of hard copy documents;
creating a digital hierarchical directory structure for representing the plurality of hard copy documents, wherein the digital hierarchical directory structure includes physical attribute information, physical attribute information being associated with at least one of the containers or the documents, physical attribute information includes a descriptor associated with one or more of the physical attributes of the associated container;
generating digital copies of each of the plurality of hard copy documents; and
storing the generated digital copies based on filenames associated with the physical attribute information, wherein the received plurality of hard copy documents are received in one or more containers, each container having one or more actual physical attributes.

[c0002] 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

searching the digital hierarchical directory structure; and
retrieving one or more of the digital copies based on the search.

- [c0003] 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein searching includes searching physical attribute information using one or more actual container physical attribute.
- [c0004] 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
transforming the digital hierarchical directory structure between two or more of a filenames storage format, a structured text format, or a relational database format.
- [c0005] 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein physical attribute information is stored in a filenames storage format, a structured text format, or a relational database format.
- [c0006] 6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
presenting one or more icons, each icon being associated with one of the containers.
- [c0007] 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein presenting includes dynamically presenting icons based on physical attribute information.
- [c0008] 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein dynamically presenting icons includes dynamically determining color of the icon based on information included within the physical attribute information.
- [c0009] 9. The method of Claim 7, wherein dynamically presenting icons includes dynamically determining icon size

based on information included within the physical attribute information.

[c0010] 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the information included within the physical attribute information includes number of documents.

[c0011] 11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the information included within the physical attribute information includes size of the associated container.

[c0012] 12. The method of Claim 7, wherein dynamically presenting icons includes dynamically determining icon type based on information included within the physical attribute information.

[c0013] 13. A graphical user interface executed on a computer-based system having a digital storage device, the graphical user interface comprising:
a first area for presenting a selected source identifier component and all parent source identifier components of the selected source identifier component; and
a second area for presenting one or more of at least one source identifier component, one or more source identifier components associated with the selected source identifier component, or at least one image or document stored in the digital storage device, the at least one im-

age or document being associated with the selected source identifier component, wherein one or more of the source identifier components is associated with physical attribute information, wherein the images, documents, and at least one of the source identifier components are associated with hard copies.

[c0014] 14. The interface of Claim 13, wherein the source identifier components associated with physical attribute information include an icon, wherein the physical attribute information is based on containers that included hard copies of images and documents that are associated with images or documents stored in the digital storage device.

[c0015] 15. The interface of Claim 14, further comprising:
a component for determining appearance of the icon based on the associated physical attribute information .

[c0016] 16. The interface of Claim 15, wherein the component determines color of the icon.

[c0017] 17. The interface of Claim 15, wherein the component determines icon size.

[c0018] 18. The interface of Claim 17, wherein the physical attribute information includes number of documents in the

source identifier component.

[c0019] 19. The interface of Claim 17, wherein the physical attribute information includes size of the associated container.

[c0020] 20. The interface of Claim 17, wherein the physical attribute information includes icon type information.

[c0021] 21. The interface of Claim 13, wherein the physical attribute information is stored in one of a filenames storage format, a structured text format, or a relational database format.

[c0022] 22. A computer-based system comprising:
a storage device for storing digital copies of physical documents included in containers and a hierarchical directory structure for organizing the physical documents and associated containers, wherein the digital hierarchical directory structure includes physical attribute information, physical attribute information being associated with at least one of the containers or the documents, wherein the physical attribute information includes a descriptor associated with one or more of the physical attributes of at least one of the associated container or contents of the associated container;
a processor in communication with the storage device,

the processor comprising:

a first component for generating a user interface that provides access to the digital hierarchical directory structure and stored digital copies of physical documents.

[c0023] 23. The system of Claim 22, wherein the processor further comprises:

a second component for searching the digital hierarchical directory structure and presenting the results of the search.

[c0024] 24. The system of Claim 22, wherein the second component searches physical attribute information stored in the digital hierarchical directory structure.

[c0025] 25. The system of Claim 22, wherein the processor further comprises:

a second component for transforming the digital hierarchical directory structure between two or more of a file-names storage format, a structured text format, or a relational database format.

[c0026] 26. The system of Claim 22, wherein the user interface includes one or more icons being associated with a portion of the physical attribute information.

[c0027] 27. The system of Claim 26, wherein at least one of the

one or more icons are dynamically presented based on information associated with the physical attribute information.

[c0028] 28. The system of Claim 27, wherein one of the dynamically presented icons include dynamically determining color of the icon based on information included within the physical attribute information.

[c0029] 29. The system of Claim 27, wherein one of the dynamically presented icons includes dynamically determining icon size based on information included within the physical attribute information.

[c0030] 30. The system of Claim 29, wherein the information included within the physical attribute information includes number of documents included in the associated container.

[c0031] 31. The system of Claim 29, wherein the information included within the physical attribute information includes size of the associated container.

[c0032] 32. The system of Claim 27, wherein dynamically presenting icons includes dynamically determining icon type based on information included within the physical attribute information.

[c0033] 33. The system of Claim 22, wherein the first component the generated user interface provides access to the digital hierarchical directory structure and stored digital copies of physical documents over the network.